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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,579	08/28/2001	Kanji Matsutani	NAK-059-USA-P	3239
7590	06/30/2004		EXAMINER	
LAW OFFICES OF TOWNSEND & BANTA 601 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 900, SOUTH BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20004			DAVIS, DANIEL J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	CJ
	09/939,579	MATSUTANI ET AL.	
	Examiner D. Jacob Davis	Art Unit 3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 May 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 5-6,8-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 5-6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicant's disclosure fails to support the added limitation of claim 5, specifically, "the blade portion having an arc-shaped linear edge without a sharp point ..." The specification and drawings fail to disclose "an arc-shaped *linear* edge."

The specification and drawings also fail to disclose that the guide portion does *not* comprise a "sharp point." Therefore, "the blade portion having an arc-shaped linear edge *without a sharp point...*" is new matter.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 8 recites the limitation "flat surface" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, filed March 23, 2004, with respect to the rejection of the claims over U.S. Patent No. 5,713,915 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejections have been withdrawn.

A rejection is made under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Applicant argues that support for the amendment to claim 5 is based on the specification as disclosed in Figs. 3(b) and 4, and on page 8, fourth paragraph. Page 8, fourth paragraph of the specification recites the following:

"Although the width of the guide portion 4 is required to be smaller than the width of the primary incision formed at the eyeball, the flat shape **is not required to have a sharp tip.**"

A sharp tip is different from a sharp point. Disclosing that a tip does not have to be sharp does not necessarily disclose that a point does not have to be

sharp. A point may be positioned at location other than at the tip. A serrated blade is an example of such a point.

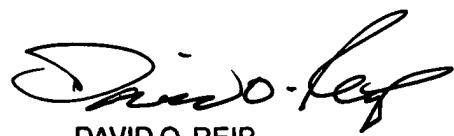
Furthermore, applicant fails to disclose a "blade portion having an arc-shaped linear edge ..." The embodiment of Fig. 3(b) illustrates an arc-shaped edge 7. In contrast, a second embodiment as seen in Fig. 5 illustrates edge 7 in the form of a line. However, the disclosure fails to recite or illustrate, "a guide portion disposed in a width direction of the blade portion having an arc-shaped linear edge ..." For the reasons given, applicant's disclosure fails to support claim 5 as amended.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. Jacob Davis whose telephone number is (703) 305-1232. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, McDermott or Shaver can be reached on (703) 308-0858. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DJD
June 18, 2004



DAVID O. REIP
PRIMARY EXAMINER